

The Opioid Crisis in Colorado: Statewide Survey Results

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Objective

- Describe the results of a statewide survey completed by (for) the Consortium to better understand Coloradans' knowledge and behaviors regarding opioids
- Will highlight...
 - Survey methods and sample size
 - Key findings
 - Policy/issue support
 - Takeaways (needs)



Statewide Survey: Methods

- Consortium's Public Awareness work group has commissioned surveys to understand public knowledge and behavior re: opioids
- Last survey was in 2015 (after *TakeMedsSeriously* PA campaign)
- Last/present survey conducted by Webb Strategic and survey research firm National Research Center (NRC) in Boulder
- Survey conducted in April/May 2018
- Sample size = 1,400 (1,200 web panelists, 200 random/phone)
- Responses weighted to reflect Colorado population norms based on age, race, gender, and region
- Usual caveats and limitations of surveys apply



Statewide Survey: Key Findings

- Prescription Medication Use
- Prescription Medication Storage/Disposal
- Opioid Misuse Prevention
- Policy/Issue Support



Key Findings: Prescription Medication Use

- 80% of Coloradans have prescriptions in the home (34% opioids)
- Only 52% of pain medications were currently in use
- Self reported nonmedical use: 8% in past year, 27% ever
- Most common reason for NMU: 60% to relieve some type of pain
- Increasing messages from health care providers
 - Duration, instructions, interactions, habit forming = 64-87%
 - Alternatives to opioids = 49%
 - Storage and Disposal = 42% and 32%, respectively
- Opioids and anxiety meds together in 24% of homes
 - Prescribed by same doctor 52% of time, warned of risks only 50% of time
- Only 26% said they are aware of naloxone, would keep handy



Key Findings: Storage/Disposal

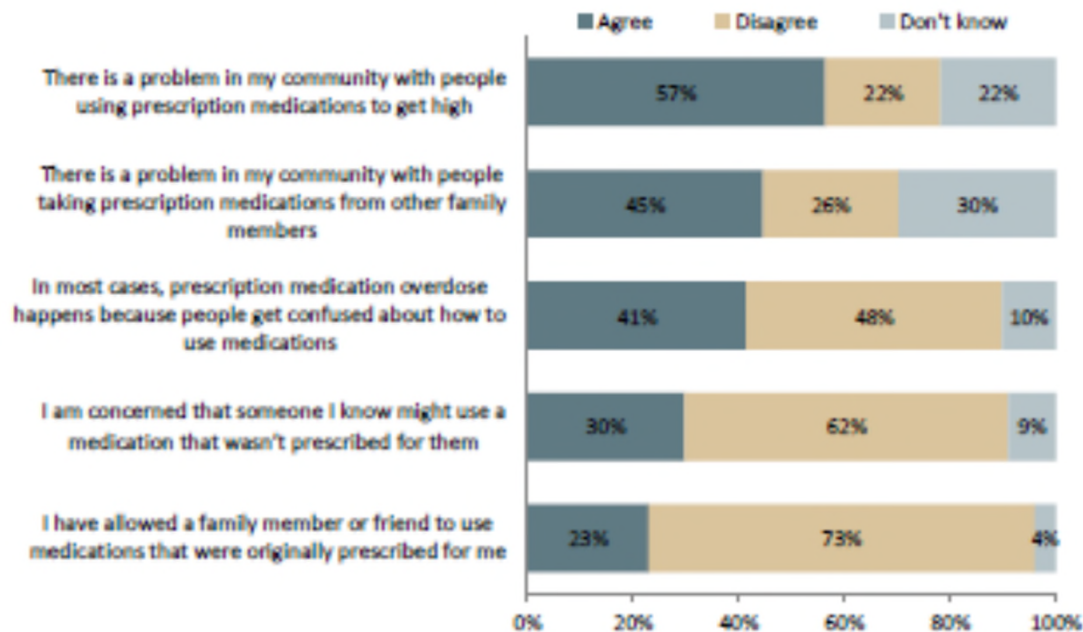
- Most people keep meds in a cabinet or drawer (63%)
- Only 12% keep locked, 8% with a child safety latch/mechanism
- 18% keep out in the open
- 8% report having medication that went missing from their home
- Most had heard of Take Back events (63%), 28% had participated
- Many had heard of Drop Boxes (42%), 38% of those had used one
- 49% hanging on to old medications “in case issue arose again”
- 34% had put leftover/expired medications in the trash, and 22% reported usually flushing them down the toilet



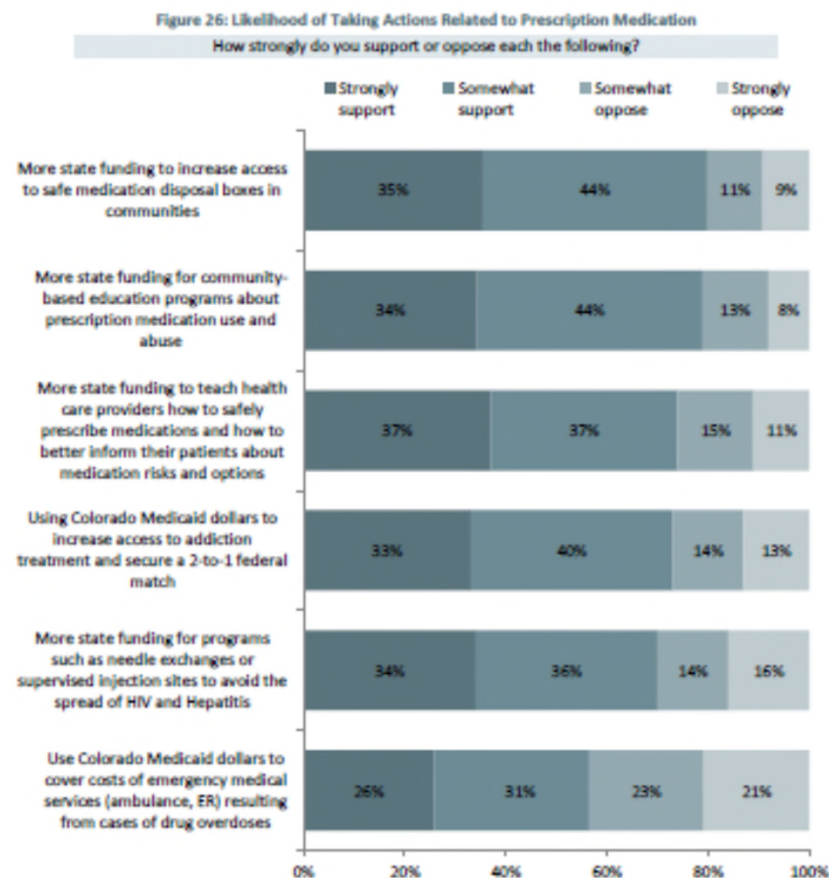
Key Findings: Prevention

Figure 21: Agreement with Statements about Prescription Medication Issues

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
There are no right or wrong answers, we want your honest opinion.



Key Findings: Policy/Issue Support



Improving, but much work to be done

- Opioids are everywhere (34% have them, >50% not in use)
- Much improved messaging on safe use (duration, effects)
- Lagging on storage/disposal messaging
- Lagging on naloxone awareness
- Must increase public awareness and provider education in the identified areas (starting to do that, need more)
- Public support is strong for public awareness, safe disposal, provider education, treatment expansion via Medicaid, and harm reduction (all over 70%)



Questions?

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